

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:268
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
FINANCIAL POWER TO PANCHAYATS
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial powers conferred to the Panchayat Raj Institution under the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 have not been enforced by the State/Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of Panchayat Raj system in country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a) States/Union Territories have devolved financial powers upon Panchayati Raj Institutions in varying degrees.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development have been requesting the States/UTs to devolve more powers to Panchayats as envisaged under the 73rd Amendment Act through high level meetings and through correspondence with the Chief Ministers, State Ministers/State Secretaries in charge of Panchayati Raj. At a Conference of the Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj held in July, 2001 at New Delhi, it was resolved that the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations would devolve powers upon Panchayats in respect of 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule. The All India Panchayat Adhyakshas Sammelan held in April, 2002 at New Delhi, attended by 1327 elected representatives inter alia resolved that powers be devolved by 31/12/2002. Consequently, the State Governments have been requested to take necessary steps for devolving powers to PRIs by the stipulated date.